



Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council

## Cultural Competency Workgroup Progress Report

December 7, 2012

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### Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012

- Governor signed SB 234 into law April 2012
- Establishes Health Enterprise Zones that saturate resources in poverty areas
- Collects data on race and ethnicity
- Hospitals report efforts and results in reducing health disparities
- Higher education reports results on efforts to address cultural competence
- Establishes a Cultural Competency Work-Group



## Cultural Competency Work-Group

- DHMH Secretary appointed Dr. Lisa Cooper and Mr. Marcos Pesquera to co-chair the MHQCC's Cultural Competency Workgroup
- Dr. Carlessia Hussein of the Minority Health and Health Disparities (MHHD) office is designated as the lead staff
- Mr. Ben Steffen of the Maryland Health Care Commission participating in partnership with MHHD to staff the Workgroup
- A Staff Support Group assembled including persons from disparities centers and other cultural competency experts in the State



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## Formation of the Work-Group

- DHMH sent letters to organizations listed in legislation, asking for nominations
- 70 nominations were received and individuals were identified to establish a diverse group
- 49 persons were appointed by the DHMH Secretary to serve; along with 2 co-chairs for a total of 51 committee members



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## Workgroup Tasks

- (1) Examine appropriate standards for cultural and linguistic competency for medical and behavioral health treatment and the feasibility and desirability of incorporating these standards into reporting by health care providers and tiering of reimbursement rates by payors;
- (2) Assess the feasibility of and develop recommendations for criteria and standards establishing multicultural health care equity and assessment programs for the Maryland Patient Centered Medical Home program and other health care settings; and
- (3) Recommend criteria for health care providers in Maryland to receive continuing education in multicultural health care, including cultural competency and health literacy training.



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## First Work-Group Meeting

- On November 29, the first meeting was held at the DHMH State Center location
- 43 persons attended including Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam and Mr. Ben Steffen of the Maryland Health Care Commission
- The Co-Chairs led the discussion of the charge, an overview of SB 234 and the MHQCC
- A draft work-plan was discussed and members asked to submit their ideas and select actions they are interested in working on
- The next meeting will be set for late January 2013



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